

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04485 040113Z

13

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 IO-14 MMS-03 /154 W

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R 031950Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

INFO SA DEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4485

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, IN

SUBJ: REPORTS THAT F-111 TO BE PLACED ON DIEGO GARCIA

REF: LONDON 4129

1. GENERAL LOVING'S TESTIMONY HAS PUT DIEGO GARCIA BACK
IN THE HEADLINES OF THE INDIAN PRESS. UNDER A CAPTION
"US PLAN FOR F-111 BOMBERS FOR GARCIA", THE APRIL 3 TIMES
OF INDIA REPORTS "THE US AIR FORCE IS CONSIDERING PLACING
NUCLEAR CAPABLE F-111 BOMBERS ON THE PROPOSED DIEGO
GARCIA BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AN AIR FORCE GENERAL
DISCLOSED." "US MAY HAVE NUCLEAR BOMBERS AT OCEAN BASE"
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 04485 040113Z

AND "NUCLEAR BOMBERS FOR DIEGO GARCIA" SAY FRONT-PAGE

HEADLINES IN THE EXPRESS AND PATRIOT. NO NEW EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET.

2. COMMENT: THE DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE WAS FADING IN THE INDIAN PRESS AND IN PARLIAMENT DURING THE PAY WEEK, BUT IT HAS NOW BEEN REVIVED BY TESTIMONY IN WASHINGTON. WE AGREE WITH LONDON'S COMMENT (REFTEL): THESE STORIES INCREASE PRESSURE IN INDIA TO MAKE LOUDER PROTESTS OVER DIEGO GARCIA AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE IN THE GOI WHO WOULD JUST AS SOON PLAY THE ISSUE DOWN. THE MAIN PROBLEM IS, ONCE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACILITIES COULD RPT COULD BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES THAN THE ONES WE CURRENTLY INTEND TO USE THEM FOR, OUR CRITICS AROUND THE WORLD IMMEDIATELY ASSUME THE ULTIMATE CAPABILITY OF THE BASE TO BE OUR ULTIMATE USE OF IT. IT'S A HARD LINE TO BEAT. WHEN WILL THE HEARINGS ON DIEGO GARCIA END?
END COMMENT.

3. THE MOSCOW-LINE ALL INDIA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION RALLIED A FEW HUNDRED FOLLOWERS TO PROTEST DIEGO GARCIA IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY APRIL 2. NO INCIDENTS. NO CONNECTION WITH LOVING'S TESTIMONY.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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